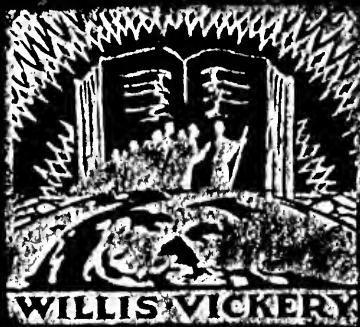


Fowre Hymnes  
—  
Spenser

1596





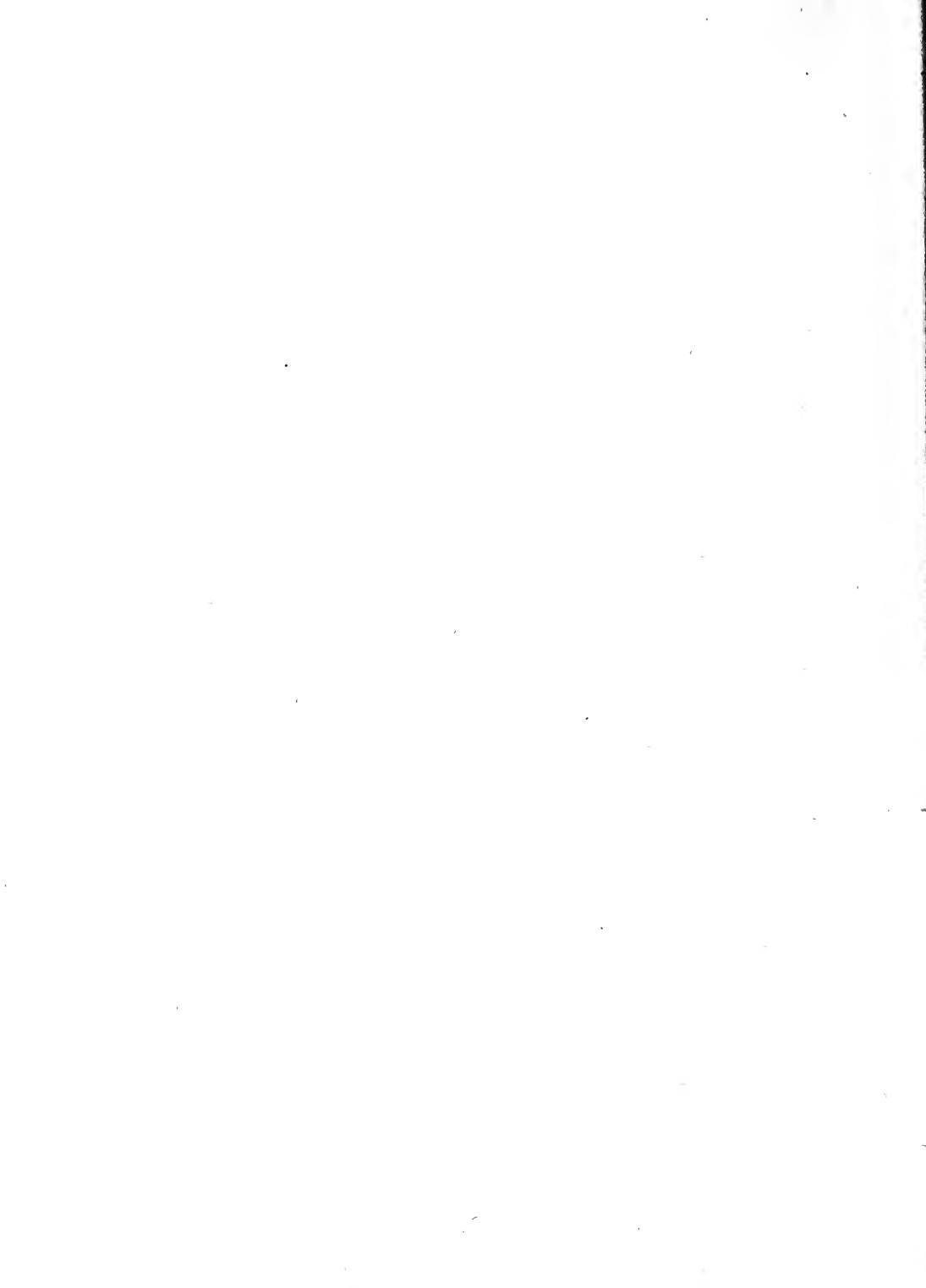


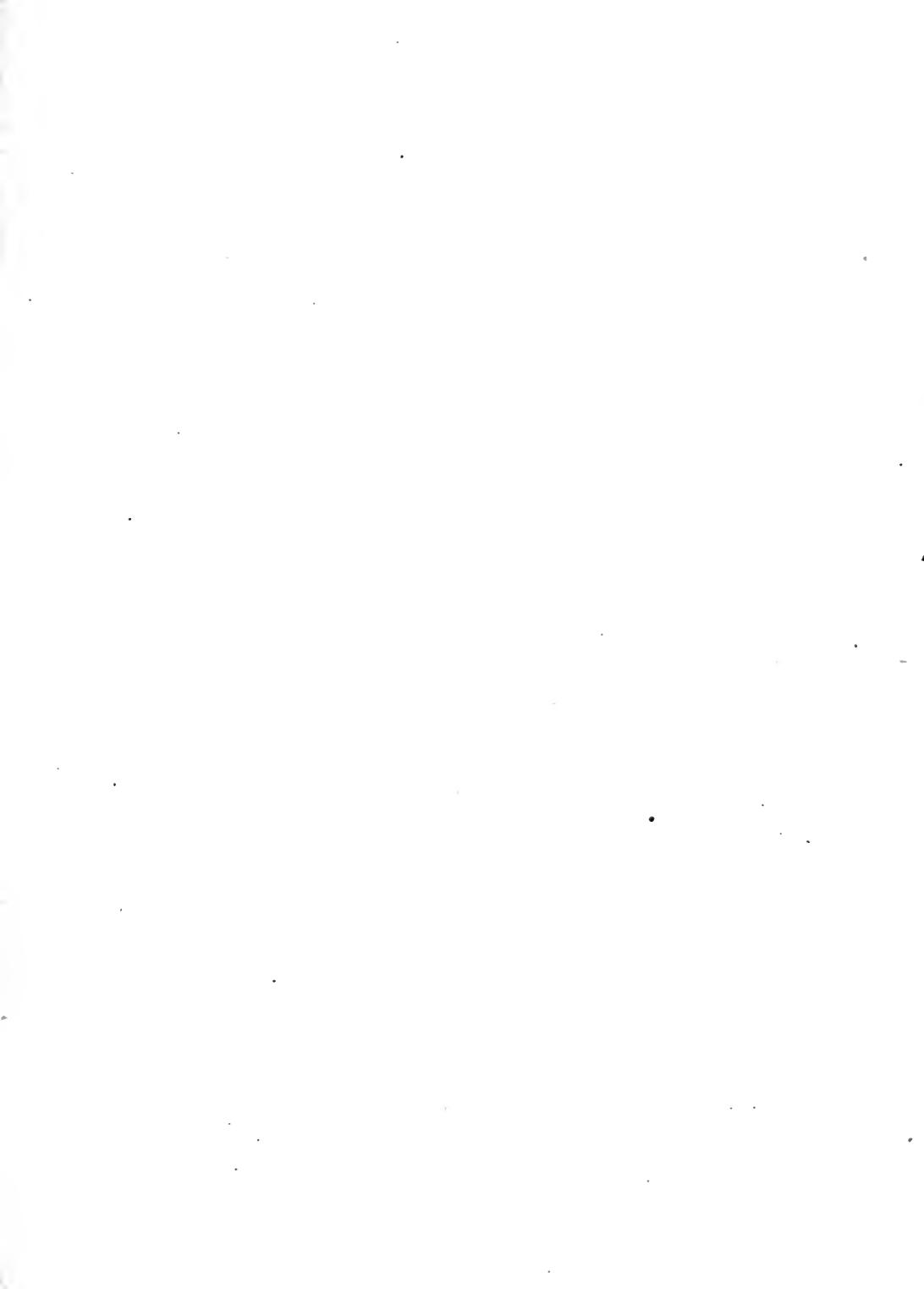
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# Fowre Hymnes,

MADE BY  
EDM. SPENSER.



LONDON,  
Printed for VVilliam Ponsonby.  
1596.



# Home Thyme

## УДАР

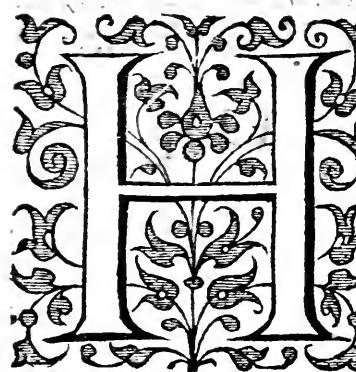
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Б. А. Г. А. Г. А. Г. А. Г.



# TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE AND MOST VERTUOUS Ladies, the Ladie Margaret Countesse of Cumberland, and the Ladie Marie Countesse of Warwicke.



Auing in the greener times  
of my youth, composed these  
former two Hymnes in the  
praise of Loue and beautie,  
and finding that the same  
too much pleased those of  
like age & dispositiō, which  
being too vehemently caried  
with that kind of affection,  
do rather sucke out payson to their strong passion, then  
hony to their honest delight, I was moued by the one of  
you two most excellent Ladies, to call in the same. But  
being vnable so to doe, by reason that many copies  
thereof were formerly scattered abroad, I resolued at  
least to amend, and by way of retractation to reforme  
them, making in stead of those two Hymnes of earthly  
or naturall loue and beautie, two others of heauenly and  
celestiall. The which I doe dedicate ioyntly vnto you  
two honorable sisters, as to the most excellent and rare  
ornaments of all true loue and beautie, both in the one

A y

and the other kinde, humbly beseeching you to vouch-  
safe the patronage of them, and to accept this my hum-  
ble seruice, in lieu of the great graces and honourable  
fauours which ye dayly shew vnto me, vntill such time  
as I may by better meanes yeeld you some more notable  
testimonic of my thankfull mind and dutifull deuotion.

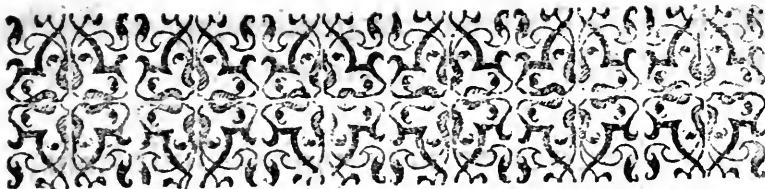
And euен so I pray for your happinesse.

Greenwich this first of September.

1596.

Your Honors most bounden ever  
in all humble seruice.

Ed. Sp.



## AN HYMNE IN HONOUR OF LOVE.

**L**oue, that long since hast to thy mighty powre,  
Perforce subdue my poore captiued hart,  
And raging now therein with restlesse stowre,  
Doest tyrannize in euerie weaker part ;  
Faine would I seeke to ease my bitter smart,  
By any seruice I might do to thee,  
Or ought that else might to thee pleasing bee.

And now t'affwage the force of this new flame,  
And make thee more propitious in my need,  
I meane to sing the praises of thy name,  
And thy victorious conquests to areed ;  
By which thou madest many harts to bleed  
Of mighty Victors, with wyde wounds embrewed,  
And by thy cruell darts to thee subdewed.

Onely I feare my wits enfeebled late, ( bred,  
Through the sharpe sorrowes, which thou hast me  
Should faint, and words should faile me, to relate  
The wondrous triumphis of thy great godhed.  
But if thou wouldest vouchsafe to ouerspred

## 2 A N H Y M N E

Me with the shadow of thy gentle wing,  
I should enabled be thy actes to sing.

Come then, ô come, thou mightie God of loue,  
Out of thy siluer bowres and secret blisse,  
Wher thou doest sit in *Venus* lap aboue,  
Bathing thy wings in her ambrosiall kisse,  
That sweeter farre then any Nectar is ;  
Come softly, and my feeble breast inspire  
With gentle furie, kindled of thy fire.

And ye sweet Muses, which haue often proued  
The piercing points of his auengefull darts ;  
And ye faire Nymphs, which oftentimes haue loued  
The cruell worker of your kindly smarts,  
Prepare your selues, and open wide your harts,  
For to receiue the triumph of your glorie,  
That made you merie oft, when ye were sorie.

And ye faire blossomes of youths wanton breed,  
Whiche in the conquests of your beautie boſt,  
Wherewith your louers feeble eyes you feed,  
But sterue their harts, that needeth nourture most,  
Prepare your selues, to march amongst his host,  
And all the way this sacred hymne do sing,  
Made in the honor of your Soueraigne king.

Great

Great god of might, that reapest in the mynd,  
 And all the bodie to thy hest doest frame,  
 Victor of gods, subduer of mankynd,  
 That doest the Lions and fell Tigers tame,  
 Making their cruell rage thy scornefull game,  
 And in their roring taking great delight;  
 Who can expresse the glorie of thy might?

Or who aliue can perfectly declare,  
 The wondrous cradle of thine infancie?  
 When thy great mother *Venus* first thee bare,  
 Begot of Plentie and of Penurie,  
 Though elder then thine owne natuuitie;  
 And yet a chyld, renewing still thy yeares;  
 And yet the eldest of the heauenly Peares.

For ere this worlds still mouing mightie masse,  
 Out of great *Chaos* vgly prison crept,  
 In which his goodly face long hidden was  
 From heauens view, and in deepe darknesse kept,  
 Loue, that had now long time securely slept.  
 In *Venus* lap, vnarm'd then and naked,  
 Gan reare his head, by *Clotho* being waked.

And taking to him wings of his owne heate,  
 Kindled at first from heauens life-giuing fyre,  
 He gan to moue out of his idle seate,  
 VVeakely at first, but after with desyre  
 Lifted aloft, he gan to mount vp hyre,  
 And like fresh Eagle, make his hardie flight  
 Through all that great wide wast, yet wating light.

Yet wanting light to guide his wandring way,  
 His owne faire mother, for all creatures sake,  
 Did lend him light from her owne goodly ray :  
 Then through the world his way he gan to take,  
 The world that was not till he did it make ;  
 Whose sundrie parts he frō them selues did seuer,  
 The which before had lyen confused euer.

The earth, the ayre, the water, and the fyre,  
 Then gan to raunge them selues in huge array,  
 And with contrary forces to conspyre  
 Each against other, by all meanes they may,  
 Threatning their owne confusion and decay :  
 Ayre hated earth, and water hated fyre,  
 Till Loue relented their rebellious yre.

He then them tooke, and tempering goodly well  
 Their contrary dislikes with loued meanes,  
 Did place them all in order, and compell  
 To keepe them selues within their sundrie raines,  
 Together linkt with Adamantine chaines ;  
 Yet so, as that in euery liuing wight  
 They mixe themselues, & shew their kindly might.

So euer since they firmly haue remained,  
 And duly well obserued his behest ; (ned  
 Through which now all these things that are cōtai-  
 Within this goodly cope, both most and least  
 Their being haue, and dayly are increast,  
 Through secret sparks of his infused fyre,  
 Which in the barraine cold he doth inspyre.  
 Thereby

Thereby they all do liue, and moued are  
 To multiply the likenesse of their kynd,  
 Whildest they seeke onely, without further care,  
 To quench the flame, which they in burning fynd :  
 But man, that breathes a more immortall mynd,  
 Not for lusts sake, but for eternitie,  
 Seekes to enlarge his lasting progenie.

For hauing yet in his deducted spright,  
 Some sparks remaining of that heauenly fyre,  
 He is enlumind with that goodly light,  
 Vnto like goodly semblant to aspyre :  
 Therefore in choice of loue, he doth desyre  
 That seenes on earth most heauenly, to embrace,  
 That same is Beautie, borne of heauenly race.

For sure of all, that in this mortall frame  
 Contained is, nought more diuine doth seeme,  
 Or that resembleth more th'immortall flame  
 Of heauenly light, then Beauties glorious beame.  
 What wonder then, if with such rage extreme  
 Fraile men, whose eyes seek heauenly things to see,  
 At sight thereof so much enrauished bee ?

Which well perceiuing that imperious boy,  
 Doth therwith tip his sharp empoisned darts; (coy,  
 Which glancing through the eyes with coûtenâce  
 Rest not, till they haue pierst the trembling harts,  
 And kindled flame in all their inner parts,  
 Which suckes the blood, and drinketh vp the lyfe  
 Of carefull wretches with consuming griefe.

Thenceforth they playne, & make ful piteous mone  
 Vnto the author of their balefull bane ; (grone,  
 The daies they waste, the nights they grieue and  
 Their liues they loath, and heauens light disdaine ;  
 No light but that , whose lampe doth yet remaine  
 Fresh burning in the image of their eye, <sup>but</sup>  
 They deigne to see , and seeing it still dye. <sup>red</sup>

The whylst thou tyrant Loue doest laugh & scorne  
 At their complaints, making their paine thy play ;  
 Whylest they lye languishing like thrals forlorne,  
 The whyles thou doest triumph in their decay,  
 And otherwhyles, their dying to delay,  
 Thou doest emmarble the proud hart of her,  
 Whose loue before their life they doe prefer.

So hast thou often done ( ay me the more )  
 To me thy vassall, whose yet bleeding hart,  
 With thousand wounds thou mangled hast so sore  
 That whole remaines scarce any little part ,  
 Yet to augment the anguith of my smart,  
 Thou hast enfrosen her disdainefull brest,  
 That no one drop of pitie there doth rest.

Why then do I this honor vnto thee,  
 Thus to ennable thy victorious name,  
 Since thou doest shew no fauour vnto mee,  
 Ne once moue ruth in that rebellious Dame,  
 Somewhat to slacke the rigour of my flame ?  
 Certes small glory doest thou winne hereby ,  
 To let her live thus free, and me to dy.

But

But if thou be indeede, as men thee call,  
 The worlds great Parent, the most kind preseruer  
 Of liuing wights, the soueraine Lord of all,  
 How falles it then, that with thy furious feruour,  
 Thou doest afflict as well the not deseruer,  
 As him that doeth thy louely heasts despize,  
 And on thy subiects most doest tyrannize?

Yet herein eke thy glory seemeth more,  
 By so hard handling those which best thee serue,  
 That ere thou doest them vnto grace restore,  
 Thou mayest well trie if they will euer swerue,  
 And mayest them make it better to deserue,  
 And hauing got it, may it more esteime,  
 For things hard gotten, men more dearely deeime.

So hard those heauenly beauties be enfyred,  
 As things diuine, least passions doe impressle,  
 The more of stedfast mynds to be admyrede,  
 The more they stayed be on stedfastnesse.  
 But baseborne mynds such lampes regard the lesse,  
 Which at first blowing take not hastie fyre,  
 Such fancies feele no loue, but loose defyre.

For loue is Lord of truth and loialtie,  
 Lifting himselfe out of the lowly dust,  
 On golden plumes vp to the purest skie,  
 Aboue the reach of loathly sinfull lust,  
 Whose base affect through cowardly distrust  
 Of his weake wings, dare not to heauen fly,  
 But like a moldwarpe in the earth dothly.

His dunghill thoughts, which do themselues enure,  
 To dirtie drosse, no higher dare aspyre; abitowell  
 Ne can his feeble earthly eyes endure  
 The flaming light of that celestiall fyre,  
 Which kindleth loue in generous desyre,  
 And makes him mount aboue the natuie might  
 Of heauie earth, vp to the heauens hight.

Such is the powre of that sweet passion,  
 That it all fordid basenesse doth expell,  
 And the refyned mynd doth newly fashion  
 Vnto a fairer forme, which now doth dwell  
 In his high thought, that would it selfe excell,  
 Which he beholding still with constant sight,  
 Admires the mirroure of so heauenly light.

VVhose image printing in his deepest wit,  
 He thereon feeds his hungrie fantasy,  
 Still full, yet neuer satisfyde with it,  
 Like Tantale, that ih store doth steruidly  
 So doth he pine in most satiety,  
 For nought may quench his infinite desyre,  
 Once kindled through that first conceiued fyre.

Thereon his mynd affixed wholly is,  
 Ne thinks on ought, but how it to attaine;  
 His care, his joy, his hope is all on this,  
 That feemes in it all blisses to containe,  
 In sight whereof, all other blisse seemes vaine.  
 Thrise happie man, might he the same possesse,  
 He faines himselfe, and doth his fortune blesse.  
 And

And though he do not win his wish to end,  
 Yet thus farre happie he him selfe doth weene,  
 That heauens such happie grace did to him lend,  
 As thing on earth so heauenly, to haue seene,  
 His harts enshrinde saint, his heauenis queene,  
 Fairer then fairest, in his fayning eye,  
 Whose sole aspe<sup>t</sup> he counts felicitye.

Then forth he casts in his vnquiet thought,  
 What he may do, her fauour to obtaine ;  
 What braue exploit, what perill hardly wrought,  
 What puissant conquest, what aduenturons paine,  
 May please her best, and grace vnto him gaine :  
 He dreads no danger, nor misfortune feares,  
 His faith, his fortune, in his breast he beares.

Thou art his god, thou art his mightie guyde,  
 Thou being blind, letst him not see his feares,  
 But cariest him to that which he hath eyde,  
 Through seas, through flames, through thousand  
 Swords and speares:

Ne ought so strong that may his force withstand,  
 With which thou arnest his resistlesse hand.

Witnesse *Leander*, in the Euxine waues,  
 And stout *Aeneas* in the Troiane fyre,  
*Achilles* preassing through the Phrygian glaives,  
 And *Orpheus* daring to prouoke the yre  
 Of damned fiends, to get his loue retyre :  
 For both through heauen & hell thou makest way,  
 To win them worship which to thee obay.

And if by all these perils and these paynes,  
 He may but purchase lyking in her eye,  
 What heaucns of ioy, then to himselfe he faynes,  
 Eftsoones he wypes quite out of memory,  
 What euer ill before he did aby,  
 Had it bene death, yet would he die againe,  
 To liue thus happie as her grace to gaine.

Yet when he hath found fauour to his will,  
 He nathemore can so contented rest,  
 But forceth further on, and striueth still  
 T'approch more neare, till in her inmost brest,  
 He may embosomd bee, and loued best;  
 And yet not best, but to be lou'd alone,  
 For loue can not endure a Paragone.

The feare whereof, ô how doth it torment  
 His troubled mynd with more then hellish paine!  
 And to his fayning fansie represent  
 Sights neuer seene, and thousand shadowes vaine,  
 To breake his sleepe, and waste his ydle braine;  
 Thou that hast neuer lou'd canst not beleue,  
 Least part of th'euils which poore louers greeue.

The gnawing enuie, the hart-fretting feare,  
 The vaine surmizes, the distrustfull shewes,  
 The false reports that flying tales doe beare,  
 The doubts, the daungers, the delayes, the woes,  
 The fayned friends, the vnassured foes,  
 With thousands more then any tongue can tell,  
 Doe make a louers life a wretches hell.

Yet

Yet is there one more cursed then they all,  
 That cancker worme, that monster Gelosie,  
 Which eates the hart, and feedes vpon the gall,  
 Turning all loues delight to miserie,  
 Through feare of loosing his felicitie.  
 Ah Gods, that ener ye that monster placed  
 In gentle loue, that all his ioyes defaced.

By these, ô Loue, thou doest thy entrance make,  
 Vnto thy heauen, and doest the more endeare,  
 Thy pleasures vnto those which them partake,  
 As after stormes when clouds begin to cleare,  
 The Sunne more bright & glorious doth appeare;  
 So thou thy folke, through paines of Purgatorie,  
 Dost beare vnto thy blisse, and heauens glorie.

There thou them placest in a Paradize  
 Of all delight, and ioyous happie rest,  
 Where they doe feede on Nectar heauenly wize,  
 With *Hercules* and *Hebe*, and the rest  
 Of *Venus* dearlings, through her bountie blest,  
 And lie like Gods in yuorie beds arayd,  
 With rose and lillies ouer them displayd.

There with thy daughter *Pleasure* they doe play  
 Their hurtlesse sports, without rebuke or blame,  
 And in her snowy boosome boldly lay  
 Their quiet heads, deuoyd of guilty shame,  
 After full ioyance of their gentle game, (Queene,  
 Then her they crowne their Goddesse and their  
 And decke with floures thy altars well besene.

12 AN HYMNE OF LOVE.

Ay me, deare Lord, that euer I might hope,  
For all the paines and woes that I endure,  
To come at length vnto the wished scope  
Of my desire, or might my selfe assure,  
That happie port for euer to recure.  
Then would I thinke these paines no paines at all,  
And all my woes to be but penance small.

Then would I sing of thine immortall praise  
An heauenly Hymne, such as the Angels sing,  
And thy triumphant name then would I raise  
Boue all the gods, thee onely honoring,  
My guide, my God, my vi&ctor, and my king;  
Till then, dread Lord, vouchsafe to take of me  
This simple song, thus fram'd in praise of thee.

*FINIS.*

AN



## AN HYMNE IN HONOUR OF BEAUTIE.

**A**H whither, Loue, wilt thou now carrie mee?  
What wontlesse fury dost thou now inspire  
Into my feeble breast, too full of thee?  
Whylest seeking to aslakē thy raging fyre,  
Thou in me kindlest much more great desyre,  
And vp aloft aboue my strength doest rayse  
The wondrous matter of my fyre to prayse.

That as I earst in pracie of thine owne name,  
So now in honour of thy Mother deare,  
An honourable Hymne I eke should frame,  
And with the brightnesse of her beautie cleare,  
The rauisht harts of gazfull men might reare,  
To admiration of that heauenly light,  
From whence proceeds such soule enchaunting  
(might.

Therto do thou great Goddessē, queene of Beauty,  
Mother of loue, and of all worlds delight,  
Without whose souerayne grace and kindly dewty,  
Nothing on earth seemes fayre to fleshly sight,  
Doe thou vouchsafe with thy loue-kindling light,  
T'illuminate my dim and dulled eyne,  
And beautifie this sacred hymne of thyne.

That both to thee, to whom I meane it most,  
 And eke to her, whose faire immortall beame,  
 Hath darted fyre into my feeble ghost,  
 That now it wasted is with woes extreame,  
 It may so please that she at length will stremme  
 Some deaw of grace, into my withered hart,  
 After long sorrow and consuming smart.

(did cast

**W**HAT time this worlds great workmaister  
 To make al things, such as we now behold  
 It seemes that he before his eyes had plast  
 A goodly Paterne to whose perfect mould,  
 He fashond them as comely as he could,  
 That now so faire and seemely they appeare,  
 As nought may be amended any wheare.

That wondrous Paterne wherefoere it bee,  
 Whether in earth layd vp in secreit store,  
 Or else in heauen, that no man may it see  
 With sinfull eyes, for feare it to deflore,  
 Is perfect Beautie which all men adore,  
 Whose face and feature doth so much excell  
 All mortall fense, that none the same may tell.

Thereof as euery earthly thing partakes,  
 Or more or lesse by influence diuine,  
 So it more faire accordingly it makes,  
 And the grosse matter of this earthly myne,  
 Which clotheth it, thereaftre doth refyne,  
 Doing away the drosse which dims the light  
 Of that faire beame, which therein is empight.

For

For through infusion of celestiall powre,  
 The duller earth it quickneth with delight,  
 And life-full spirits priuily doth powre  
 Through all the parts, that to the lookers sight  
 They seeme to please. That is thy soueraine might,  
 O *Cyprian* Queene, which flowing from the beame  
 Of thy bright starre, thou into them doest streme.

That is the thing which giueth pleasant grace  
 To all things faire, that kindleth liuely fyre,  
 Light of thy lampe, which shyning in the face,  
 Thence to the soule darts amorous desyre,  
 And robs the harts of those which it admyre,  
 Therewith thou pointest thy Sons poysned arrow,  
 That wounds the life, & wastes the inmost marrow.

How vainely then doe ydle wits inuent,  
 That beautie is nought else, but mixture made  
 Of colours faire, and goodly temp'rament  
 Of pure complexions, that shall quickly fade  
 And passe away, like to a sommers shade,  
 Or that it is but comely composition  
 Of parts well measurd, with meet disposition.

Hath white and red in it such wondrous powre,  
 That it can pierce through th'eyes vnto the hart,  
 And therein stirre such rage and restlesse stowre,  
 As nought but death can stint his dolours smart?  
 Or can proportion of the outward part,  
 Moue such affection in the inward mynd,  
 That it can rob both sense and reason blynd?

Why doe not then the blossomes of the field,  
 Which are arrayd with much more orient hew,  
 And to the sense most daintie odours yield,  
 Worke like impression in the lookers vew?  
 Or why doe not faire pictures like powre shew,  
 In which oftentimes, we Nature see of Art  
 Exceld, in perfect limming euery part.

But ah, beleeue me, there is more then so  
 That workes such wonders in the minds of men.  
 I that haue often prou'd, too well it know;  
 And who so list the like assayes to ken,  
 Shall find by tryall, and confesse it then,  
 That Beautie is not, as fond men misdeeme,  
 An outward shew of things, that onely seeeme.

For that same goodly hew of white and red,  
 With which the cheeke are sprinckled, shal decay,  
 And those sweete rosy leaues so fairely spred  
 Vpon the lips, shall fade and fall away  
 To that they were, euen to corrupted clay.  
 That golden wyre, those sparckling stars so bright  
 Shall turne to dust, and loose their goodly light.

But that faire lampe, from whose celestiall ray  
 That light proceedes, which kindleth louers fire,  
 Shall neuer be extinguisht nor decay,  
 But when the vitall spirits doe expyre,  
 Vnto her native planet shall retyre,  
 For it is heauenly borne and can not die,  
 Being a parcell of the purest skie.

For when the soule, the which deriued was  
 At first, out of that great immortall Spright,  
 By whom all liue to loue, whilome did pas  
 Downe from the top of purest heauens hight,  
 To be embodied here, it then tooke light  
 And liuely spirits from that fayrest starre,  
 Which lights the world forth from his firie carre.

Which powre retayning still or more or lesse,  
 When she in fleshly seede is est enraced,  
 Through euery part she doth the same impressie,  
 According as the heauens haue her graced,  
 And frames her house, in which she will be placed,  
 Fit for her selfe, adorning it with spoyle  
 Of th'heauenly riches, which she robd erewhyle.

Therof it comes, that these faire soules, which haue  
 The most resemblance of that heauenly light,  
 Frame to themselues most beautifull and braue  
 Their fleshly bowre, most fit for their delight,  
 And the grosse matter by a soueraine might  
 Tempers so trim, that it may well be scene,  
 A pallace fit for such a virgin Queene.

So euery spirit, as it is most pure,  
 And hath in it the more of heauenly light,  
 So it the fairer bodie doth procure  
 To habit in, and it more fairely dight  
 With chearefull grace and amiable sight,  
 For of the soule the bodie forme doth take  
 For soule is forme, and doth the bodie make.

Therefore where euer that thou doest behold  
 A comely corpse, with beautie faire endewed,  
 Know this for certaine, that the same doth hold  
 A beauteous soule, with faire conditions thewed,  
 Fit to receiue the seede of vertue strewed.  
 For all that faire is, is by nature good;  
 That is a signe to know the gentle blood.

Yet oft it falles, that many a gentle mynd  
 Dwels in deformed tabernacle drownd,  
 Either by chaunce, against the course of kynd,  
 Or through vnaptiesse in the substance fownd,  
 Which it assumed of some stubborne grownd,  
 That will not yield vnto her formes direction,  
 But is perform'd with some foule imperfection.

And oft it falles ( ay me the more to rew )  
 That goodly beautie, albe heauenly borne,  
 Is foule abus'd, and that celestiall hew,  
 Which doth the world with her delight adorne,  
 Made but the bait of sinne, and sinners scorne;  
 Whiles enery one doth seeke and sew to haue it,  
 But euery one doth seeke, but to depraue it.

Yet natemore is that faire beauties blamie,  
 But theirs that do abuse it vnto ill:  
 Nothing so good, but that through guilty shame  
 May be corrupt, and wrested vnto will.  
 Nathelesse the soule is faire and beauteous still,  
 How euer fleshes fault it filthy make:  
 For things immortall no corruption take.

But

But ye faire Dames, the worlds deare ornaments,  
 And liuely images of heauens light,  
 Let not your beames with such disparagements  
 Be dimd, and your bright glorie darkned quight,  
 But mindfull still of your first countries sight,  
 Doe still preserue your first informed grace,  
 Whose shadow yet shynes in your beauteous face.

Loath that foule blot, that hellish fierbrand,  
 Disloiall lust, faire beauties foulest blame,  
 That base affectiōs, which your eares would bland,  
 Commend to you by loues abused name;  
 But is indeede the bondslauē of defame,  
 Which will the garland of your glorie marre,  
 And quēch the light of your bright shyning starre.

But gentle Loue, that loiall is and trew,  
 Will more illumine your resplendent ray,  
 And adde more brightnesse to your goodly hew,  
 From light of his pure fire, which by like way  
 Kindled of yours, your likenesse doth display,  
 Like as two mirrours by opposd reflexion,  
 Doe both expresse the faces first impression.

Therefore to make your beautie more appeare,  
 It you behoues to loue, and forth to lay  
 That heauenly riches, which in you ye beare,  
 That men the more admyre their fountaine may,  
 For else what booteth that celestiall ray,  
 If it in darknesse be enshrined euer,  
 That it of louing eyes be vewed neuer?

But in your choice of Loues, this well aduize,  
 That likest to your selues ye them sele<sup>t</sup>,  
 The which your forms first sourse may sympathize,  
 And with like beauties parts be inly deckt:  
 For if you loosely loue without respect,  
 It is no loue, but a discordant warre,  
 Whose vnlike parts amongst themselues do iarre.

For Loue is a celestiall harmonie,  
 Of likely harts composd of starres concen<sup>t</sup>,  
 Which ioyne together in sweete sympathie,  
 To worke ech others ioy and true content,  
 Which they haue harbourd since their first descēt  
 Out of their heauenly bowres, where they did see  
 And know ech other here belou'd to bēe.

Then wrong it were that any other twaine  
 Should in loues gentle band combyned bēe,  
 But those whom heauen did at first ordaine,  
 And made out of one mould the more t'agree:  
 For all that like the beautie which they see,  
 Streight do not loue: for loue is not so light,  
 As streight to burne at first beholders sight.

But they which loue indeede, looke otherwife,  
 With pure regard and spotlesse true intent,  
 Drawing out of the obiect of their eyes,  
 A more refyned forme, which they present  
 Vnto their mind, voide of all blemishment;  
 Which it reducing to her first perfection,  
 Beholdeth free from fleshes frayle infection.

And

And then conforming it vnto the light,  
 VVhich in it selfe it hath remaining still  
 Of that first Sunne, yet sparckling in his sight,  
 Thereof he fashions in his higher skill,  
 An heauenly beautie to his fancies will,  
 And it embracing in his mind entyre,  
 The mirrorre of his owne thought doth admyre.

Which seeing now so inly faire to be,  
 As outward it appeareth to the eye,  
 And with his spirits proportion to agree,  
 He thereon fixeth all his fantasie,  
 And fully setteth his felicitie,  
 Counting it fairer, then it is indeede,  
 And yet indeede her fairenesse doth exceede.

For louers eyes more sharply sighted bee  
 Then other mens, and in deare loues delight  
 See more then any other eyes can see,  
 Through mutuall receipt of beames bright,  
 Which carrie priuie message to the spright,  
 And to their eyes that inmost faire display,  
 As plaine as light discouers dawning day.

Therein they see through amorous eye-glaunces,  
 Armies of loues still flying too and fro,  
 Which dart at them their little fierie launces,  
 Whom hauing wounded, backe againe they go,  
 Carrying compassion to their louely foe ;  
 Who seeing her faire eyes so sharpe effect,  
 Cures all their sorrowes with one sweete aspect.

In which how many wonders doe they reede  
 To their conceipt, that others neuer see, (feede,  
 Now of her smiles, with which their soules they  
 Like Gods with Nectar in their bankets free,  
 Now of her lookes, which like to Cordials bee;  
 But when her words embassade forth she seinds,  
 Lord how sweete musicke that vnto them lends.

Sometimes vpon her forehead they behold  
 A thousand Graces masking in delight,  
 Sometimes within her eye-lids they vnfold  
 Ten thousand sweet belgard's, which to their sight  
 Doe see me like twinkling starres in frostie night:  
 But on her lips like rosy buds in May,  
 So many millions of chaste pleasures play.

All those, ô *Cytherea*, and thousands more  
 Thy handmaides be, which do on thee attend:  
 To decke thy beautie with their dainties store,  
 That may it more to mortall eyes commend,  
 And make it more admyr'd of foe and frend;  
 That in mens harts thou mayst thy throne enstall,  
 And spred thy louely kingdoime ouer all.

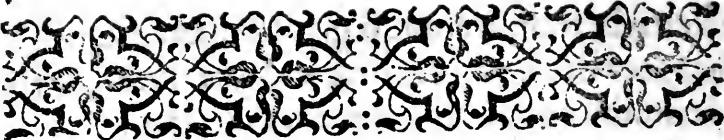
Then *Io tryumph*, ô great beauties Queene,  
 Aduance the banner of thy conquest hie,  
 That all this world, the which thy vassals beene,  
 May draw to thee, and with dew fealtie,  
 Adore the powre of thy great Maiestie,  
 Singing this Hymne in honour of thy name,  
 Compyld by me, which thy poore liegeman am.

In lieu whereof graunt, ô great Soueraine,  
That she whose conquering beautie doth captiue  
My trembling hart in her eternall chaine,  
One drop of grace at length will to me giue,  
That I her bounden thrall by her may liue,  
And this same life, which first fro me she reaued,  
May owe to her, of whom I it receaued.

And you faire *Venus* dearling, my deare dread,  
Fresh flowre of grace, great Goddess of my life,  
Whē your faire eyes these fearefull lines shal read,  
Deigne to let fall one drop of dew relieve,  
That may recure my harts long pyning griefe,  
And shew what wōdrous powre your beauty hath,  
That can restore a damned wight from death.

*F I N I S.*

D ij



# AN HYMNE OF HEAVENLY LOVE.

**L**oue, lift me vp vpon thy golden wings,  
From this base world vnto thy heauens hight,  
Where I may see those admirable things,  
Whiche there thou workest by thy soueraine might,  
Farre aboue feeble reach of earthly sight,  
That I thereof an heauenly Hymne may sing  
Vnto the god of Loue, high heauens king.

Many lewd layes ( ah woe is me the more )  
In praise of that mad fit, which fooles call loue,  
I haue in th'heat of youth made heretofore,  
That in light wits did loose affection moue.  
But all those follies now I do reprove,  
And turned haue the tenor of my string,  
The heauenly prayses of true loue to sing.

And ye that wont with greedy vaine desire  
To reade my fault, and wondring at my flame,  
To warme your selues at my wide sparckling fire,  
Sith now that heat is quenched, quench my blame,  
And in her ashes shrowd my dying shame :  
For who my passed follies now purfewes,  
Beginnes his owne, and my old fault renewes.

Before

BEfore this worlds great frame, in which al things  
 Are now containd, found any being place,  
 Ere flitting Time could wag his eyas wings  
 About that mightie bound, which doth embrace  
 The rolling Spheres, & parts their houres by space,  
 That high eternall powre, which now doth moue  
 In all these things, mou'd in it selfe by loue.

It lou'd it selfe, because it selfe was faire ;  
 (For faire is lou'd;) and of it selfe begot  
 Like to it selfe his eldest sonne and heire,  
 Eternall, pure, and voide of sinfull blot,  
 The firstling of his ioy, in whom no iot  
 Of loues dislike, or pride was to be found,  
 Whom he therefore with equall honour crownd.

With him he raignd, before all time prescribed,  
 In endlesse glorie and immortall might,  
 Together with that third from them deriued,  
 Most wise, most holy, most almighty Spright,  
 Whose kingdomes throne no thought of earthly  
 Can cōprehēd, much lesse my trēbling verse(wight  
 With equall words can hope it to reherse.

Yet ô most blessed Spirit, pure lampe of light,  
 Eternall spring of grace and wisedome trew,  
 Vouchsafe to shed into my barren spright,  
 Some little drop of thy celestiall dew,  
 That may my rymes with sweet infuse embrew,  
 And giue me words equall vnto my thought,  
 To tell the marueilis by thy mercie wrought.

Yet being pregnant still with powrefull grace,  
 And full of fruitfull loue, that loues to get  
 Things like himselfe, and to enlarge his race,  
 His second brood though not in powre so great,  
 Yet full of beautie, next he did beget  
 An infinite increase of Angels bright,  
 All glistring glorious in their Makers light.

To them the heauens illimitable hight,  
 Not this round he auē, which we frō hence behold,  
 Adornd with thousand lamps of burning light,  
 And with ten thousand gemmes of shyning gold,  
 He gaue as their inheritance to hold,  
 That they might serue him in eternall blis,  
 And be partakers of those ioyes of his.

There they in their trinall triplicities  
 About him wait, and on his will depend,  
 Either with nimble wings to cut the skies,  
 When he them on his messages doth send,  
 Or on his owne dread presence to attend,  
 Where they behold the glorie of his light,  
 And caroll Hymnes of loue both day and night.

Both day and night is vnto them all one,  
 For he his beames doth still to them extend,  
 That darknesse there appeareth neuer none,  
 Ne hath their day, ne hath their blisse an end,  
 But there their termeslesse time in pleasure spend,  
 Ne euer should their happinesse decay,  
 Had not they dar'd their Lord to disobay.

But

But pride impatient of long resting peace,  
 Did puffe them vp with greedy bold ambition,  
 That they gan cast their state how to increase,  
 Aboue the fortune of their first condition,  
 And sit in Gods owne seat without commission :  
 The brightest Angell, euen the Child of light  
 Drew millions more against their God to fight.

Th' Almighty seeing their so bold assay,  
 Kindled the flame of his consuming yre,  
 And with his onely breath them blew away  
 From heauens hight, to which they did aspyre,  
 To deepest hell, and lake of damned fyre ;  
 Wher they in darknesse and dread horror dwell,  
 Hating the happie light from which they fell.

So that next off-spring of the Makers loue,  
 Next to himselfe in glorious degree,  
 Degendering to hate fell from aboue  
 Through pride ; ( for pride and loue may ill agree )  
 And now of sinne to all ensample bee :  
 How then can sinfull flesh it selfe assure,  
 Sith purest Angels fell to be impure ?

But that eternall fount of loue and grace,  
 Still flowing forth his goodnessse vnto all,  
 Now seeing left a waste and emptie place  
 In his wyde Pallace, through those Angels fall,  
 Cast to supply the same, and to enstall  
 A new vnknownen Colony therein ; (begin.  
 Whose root from earths base groundworke shold

Therefore of clay, base, vile, and next to nought,  
 Yet form'd by wondrous skill, and by his might:  
 According to an heauenly patternewrought,  
 Which he had fashiond in his wise foresight,  
 He man did make, and breathd a liuing spright  
 Into his face most beautifull and fayre,  
 Endewd with wisedomes riches, heauenly, rare.

Such he him made, that he resemble might  
 Himselfe, as mortall thing immortall could;  
 Him to be Lord of euery liuing wight,  
 He made by loue out of his owne like mould,  
 In whom he might his mightie selfe behould:  
 For loue doth loue the thing belou'd to see,  
 That like it selfe in louely shape may bee.

But man forgetfull of his makers grace,  
 No lesse then Angels, whom he did ensew,  
 Fell from the hope of promist heauenly place,  
 Into the mouth of death to sinners dew,  
 And all his off-spring into thraldome threw:  
 Where they for euer should in bonds remaine,  
 Of neuer dead, yet euer dying paine.

Till that great Lord of Loue, which him at first  
 Made of meere loue, and after liked well,  
 Seeing him lielike creature long accurst,  
 In that deepe horror of despeyred hell,  
 Him wretch in doole would let no lenger dwell,  
 But cast out of that bondage to redeeme,  
 And pay the price, all were his debt extreame.

Out of the bosome of eternall blisse,  
 In which he reigned with his glorious syre,  
 He downe descended, like a most demisse  
 And abie~~c~~ thrall, in fleshes fraile attyre,  
 That he for him might pay sinnes deadly hyre,  
 And him restore vnto that happie state,  
 In which he stood before his haplesse fate.

In flesh at first the guilt committed was,  
 Therefore in flesh it must be satisfyde :  
 Nor spirit, nor Angell, though they man surpas,  
 Could make amends to God for mans misguyde,  
 But onely man hymselfe, who selfe did slyde.  
 So taking flesh of sacred virgins wombe,  
 For mans deare sake he did a man become,

And that most blessed bodie, which was borne  
 Without all blemish or reprochfull blame,  
 He freely gaue to be both rent and torne  
 Of cruel hands, who with despightfull shame  
 Reuyling him, that them most vile became,  
 At length him nayled on a gallow tree,  
 And slew the iust, by most vniust decree.

O huge and most vnspeakeable impression  
 Of loues deepe wound, that pierst the piteous hart  
 Of that deare Lord with so entyre affection,  
 And sharply launching euery inner part,  
 Dolours of death into his soule did dart;  
 Doing him die, that neuer it deserued,  
 To free his foes, that from his heast had swerued.

What hart can feele least touch of so sore launch,  
 Or thought can think the depth of so deare wound,  
 Whose bleeding sourse their stremes yet neuer  
 But stil do flow, & freshly still redound, (staunch,  
 To heale the sores of sinfull soules vnsound,  
 And cleane the guilt of that infected cryme,  
 Which was enrooted in all fleshly slime.

O blessed well of loue, o floure of grace,  
 O glorious Morning starre, o lampe of light,  
 Most liuely image of thy fathers face,  
 Eternall King of glorie, Lord of might,  
 Mecke lambe of God before all worlds behight,  
 How can we thee requite for all this good  
 Or what can prize that thy most precious blood?

Yet nought thou ask'ft in lieu of all this loue,  
 But loue of vs for guerdon of thy paine.  
 Ay me; what can vs lesse then that behoue?  
 Had he required life of vs againe,  
 Had it beene wrong to aske his owne with gaine?  
 He gaue vs life, he it restored lost,  
 Then life were least, that vs so litle cost.

But he our life hath left ynto vs free,  
 Free that was thrall, and blessed that was band;  
 Ne ought demaunds, but that we louing bee,  
 As he himselfe hath lou'd vs afore hand,  
 And bound the rto with an eternall band,  
 Him first to loue, that vs so dearely bought,  
 And next our brethren to his image wrought.

Him

Him first to loue, great right and reason is,  
 Who first to vs our life and being gaue ;  
 And after when we fared had amisse,  
 Vs wretches from the second death did saue ;  
 And last the food of life, which now we haue,  
 Euen himselfe in his deare sacrament,  
 To feede our hungry soules vnto vs lent.

Then next to loue our brethren, that were made  
 Of that selfe mould, and that selfe makers hand,  
 That we, and to the same againe shall fade,  
 Where they shall haue like heritage of land,  
 How euer here on higher steps we stand ;  
 Which also were with selfe same price redeemed  
 That we, how euer of vs light esteemed.

And were they not, yet since that louing Lord  
 Commaunded vs to loue them for his sake,  
 Euen for his sake, and for his sacred word,  
 Which in his last bequest he to vs spake,  
 We shold them loue, & with their needs partake ;  
 Knowing that whatsoere to them we giue,  
 We giue to him, by whom we all doe liue.

Such mercy he by his most holy reede  
 Vnto vs taught, and to approue it trew,  
 Ensamled it by his most righteous deede,  
 Shewing vs mercie miserable crew,  
 That we the like should to the wretches shew,  
 And loue our brethren ; thereby to approue,  
 How much himselfe that loued vs, we loue.

Then rouze thy selfe, ô earth, out of thy soyle,  
 In which thou wallowest like to filthy swyne,  
 And doest thy mynd in durty pleasures moyle,  
 Vnmindfull of that dearest Lord of thyne;  
 Lift vp to him thy heauie clouded eyne,  
 That thou his soueraine bountie mayst behold,  
 And read through louc his mercies manifold.

Beginne from first, where he encradled was  
 In simple cratch, wrapt in a wad of hay,  
 Betweene the toylefull Oxe and humble Asse,  
 And in what rags, and in how base aray,  
 The glory of our heauenly riches lay,  
 When him the silly Shepheards came to see,  
 Whom greatest Princes sought on lowest knee.

From thence reade on the storie of his life,  
 His humble carriage, his vnfaulty wayes,  
 His cancred foes, his fights, his toyle, his strife,  
 His paines, his pouertie, his sharpe assayes,  
 Through which he past his miserable dayes,  
 Offending none, and doing good to all,  
 Yet being malist both of great and small.

And looke at last how of most wretched wights,  
 He taken was, betrayd, and false accused,  
 How with most scornefull taunts, & fell despights  
 He was reuyld, disgrast, and foule abused, (brused;  
 How scourgd, how crownd, how buffeted, how  
 And lastly how twixt robbers crucifyde, (& syde.  
 With bitter wounds through hands, through feet

Then

Then let thy flinty hart that feeles no paine,  
 Empierced be with pittifull remorse,  
 And let thy bowels bleede in euery vaine,  
 At sight of his most sacred heauenly corse,  
 So torne and mangled with malicious forse,  
 And let thy soule, whose sins his sorrows wrought,  
 Melt into teares, and grone in grieued thought.

With sence whereof whilst so thy softened spirit  
 Is iinly toucht, and humbled with meeke zeale,  
 Through meditation of his endlesse merit,  
 Lift vp thy mind to th'author of thy weale,  
 And to his soueraine mercie doe appeale;  
 Learne him to loue, that loued thee so deare,  
 And in thy brest his blessed image beare.

With all thy hart, with all thy soule and mind,  
 Thou must him loue, and his behests embrase,  
 All other loues, with which the world doth blind  
 Weake fancies, and stirre vp affections base,  
 Thou must renounce, and vtterly displace,  
 And giue thy selfe vnto him full and free,  
 That full and freely gaue himselfe to thee.

Then shalt thou feele thy spirit so possest,  
 And rauisht with deuouring great desire  
 Of his deare selfe, that shall thy feeble brest  
 Inflame with loue, and set thee all on fire  
 With burning zeale, through euery part entire,  
 That in no earthly thing thou shalt delight,  
 But in his sweet and amiable sight.

Thenceforth all worlds desire will in thee dye,  
 And all earthes glorie on which men do gaze,  
 Seeme durt and drosse in thy pure sighted eye,  
 Compar'd to that celestiall beauties blaze,  
 Whose glorious beames all fleshly sense doth daze,  
 With admiration of their passing light,  
 Blinding the eyes and lumining the spright.

Then shall thy rauisht soule inspired bee  
 With heauely thoughts, farre aboue humane skil,  
 And thy bright radiant eyes shall plainly see  
 Th'Idee of his pure glorie present still,  
 Before thy face, that all thy spirits shall fill  
 With sweete enragement of celestiall loue,  
 Kindled through sight of those faire things aboue.

**FINIS.**

**AN**



## AN HYMNE OF HEAVENLY BEAUTIE.

Rapt with the rage of mine own rauisht thought,  
Through cōtemplation of those goodly sights,  
And glorious images in heauen wrought,  
Whose wōdrous beauty breathing sweet delights,  
Do kindle loue in high conceipted sprights :  
I faine to tell the things that I behold,  
But feele my wits to faile, and tongue to fold.

Vouchsafe then, ô thou most almighty Spright,  
From whom all giufts of wit and knowledge flow,  
To shed into my breast some sparkling light  
Of thine eternall Truth, that I may show  
Some little beames to mortall eyes below,  
Of that immortall beautie, there with thee,  
Which in my weake distraughted mynd I see.

That with the glorie of so goodly sight,  
The hearts of men, which fondly here admyre  
Faire seeming shewes, and feed on vaine delight,  
Transported with celestiall desyre, may lift themselues vp hyer,  
Of those faire formes, may lift themselues vp hyer,  
And learne to loue with zealous humble dewty  
Th'eternall fountaine of that heauenly beauty.

Beginning then below, with th'easie vew  
 Of this base world, subiect to fleshly eye,  
 From thence to mount aloft by order dew,  
 To contemplation of th'immortall sky,  
 Of the soare faulcon so Ilearne to fly,  
 That flags awhile her fluttering wings beneath,  
 Till she her selfe for stronger flight can breath.

Then looke who list, thy gazefull eyes to feed  
 With sight of that is faire, looke on the frame  
 Of this wyde *uniuers*, and therein reed  
 The endlesse kinds of creatures, which by name  
 Thou cāst not couēt, much leſſe their natures aime:  
 All which are made with wondrouſ wife respect,  
 And all with admirable beautie deckt.

First th'Earth, on adamantine pillers founded,  
 Amid the Sea engirt with brasen bands;  
 Then th'Aire still flitting, but yet firmly bounded  
 On euerie side, with pyles of flaming brands;  
 Neuer consum'd nor quencht with mortall hands;  
 And last, that mightie shining christall wall,  
 Wherewith he hath encompassed this All.

By view whereof, it plainly may appeare,  
 That still as euery thing doth vpward tend,  
 And further is from earth, so still more cleare  
 And faire it growes, till to his perfect end  
 Of pureſt beautie, it at laſt ascend:  
 Ayre more then water, fire much more then ayre,  
 And heauen then fire appeares more pure & fayre.  
 Looke

Looke thou no further, but affixe thine eye,  
 On that bright shynie round still mouing Masse,  
 The house of blessed Gods, which men call *Skye*,  
 All sowd with glistring stars more thicke thē grasse,  
 Wherof each other doth in brightnesse passe;  
 But those two most, which ruling night and day,  
 As King and Queene, the heauens Empire sway.

And tell me then, what haſt thou euer ſeene,  
 That to their beautie may compared bee,  
 Or can the ſight that is moſt ſharpe and keene,  
 Endure their Captains flaming head to ſee?  
 How muſt leſſe thoſe, muſt higher in degree,  
 And ſo muſt fairer, and muſt more then theſe,  
 As theſe are fairer then the land and ſeas?

For farre aboue theſe heauens which here we ſee,  
 Be others farre exceeding theſe in light,  
 Not bounded, not corrupt, as theſe ſame bee,  
 But infinite in largenesſe and in hight,  
 Vnmouing, vncorrupt, and ſpotleſſe bright,  
 That need no Sunne t'illuminate their ſpheres,  
 But their owne native light farre paſſing theirs.

And as theſe heauens ſtill by degrees arize,  
 Vntill they come to their firſt Mouers bound,  
 That in his mightie compaſſe doth comprize,  
 And carrie all the reſt with him around,  
 So thoſe likewiſe doe by degrees redound,  
 And riſe more faire, till they at laſt arive  
 To the moſt faire, whereto they all do ſtrive.

Faire is the heauen, where happy loules haue place,  
 In full enioyment of felicitie,  
 Whence they doe still behold , the glorious face  
 Of the diuine eternall Maiestie,  
 More faire is that, where those *Idees* on hie  
 Enraunged be, which *Plato* so admyred,  
 And pure *Intelligences* from God inspyred.

Yet fairer is that heauen, in which doe raine:  
 The soueraigne *Powres* and mightie *Potentates*,  
 Which in their high protections doe containe:  
 All mortall Princes, and imperiall States;  
 And fayrer yet, whereas the royll Seates  
 And heauenly *Dominations* are set, from whom  
 From whom all earthly gouernance is set.

Yet farre more faire be those bright *Cherubins*,  
 Which all with golden wings are ouerdight,  
 And those eternall burning *Seraphins*,  
 Which from their faces dart out fierie lights;  
 Yet fairer then they both, and much more bright  
 Be th' Angels and Archangels, which attend  
 On Gods owne person, without rest or end.

These thus in faire each other farre excelling,  
 As to the Highest they approch more neare,  
 Yet is that Highest farre beyond all telling,  
 Fairer then all the rest which there appeare,  
 Though all their beauties ioyned together were:  
 How then can mortall tongue hope to expresse,  
 The image of such endlesse perfectnesse.

Cease

Cease then my tongue, and lend vnto my mynd  
 Leaue to bethinke how great that beautie is,  
 Whose vtmost parts so beautifull I fynd,  
 How much more those essentiall parts of his,  
 His truthe, his loue, his wisedome, and his blis,  
 His grace, his doome, his mercy and his might,  
 By which he lends vs of himselfe a sight.

Those vnto all he daily doth display,  
 And shew himselfe in thi image of his grace,  
 As in a looking glasse, through which he may  
 Be seene, of all his creatures vile and base,  
 That are vnable else to see his face,  
 His glorious face which glistereth else so bright,  
 That th' Angels selues can not endure his sight.

But we fraile wights, whose sight cannot sustaine  
 The Suns bright beames, whē he on vs doth shyne,  
 But that their points reburted backe againe  
 Are duld, how can we see with feeble eyne,  
 The glory of that Maiestic diuine,  
 In sight of whom both Sun and Moone are darke,  
 Compared to his least resplendent sparke?

The meanes therefore which vnto vs is lent,  
 Him to behold, is on his workes to looke,  
 Which he hath made in beautie excellent,  
 And in the same, as in a brasen booke,  
 To reade enregistred in euery nooke  
 His goodnesse, which his beautie doth declare,  
 For all that's good, is beautifull and faire.

Thence gathering plumes of perfect speculation,  
To impe the wings of thy high flying mynd,  
Mount vp aloft through heauenly contemplation,  
From this darke world, whose damps the soule do  
And like the natuе brood of Eagles kynd, (blynd,  
On that bright Sunne of glorie fixe thine eyes,  
Clear'd from grosse mists of fraile infirmities.

Humbled with feare and awfull reuERENCE,  
Before the footestoole of his Maiestie,  
Throw thy selfe downe with trembling innocencie,  
Ne dare looke vp with corruptible eye,  
On the dred face of that great *Deity*,  
For feare, lest if he chaunce to looke on thee,  
Thou turne to nougat, and quite confounded be.

But lowly fall before his mercie seate,  
Close couered with the Lambes integrity,  
From the iustwrath of his auengefull threate,  
That sits vpon the righteous throne on hi,  
His throne is built vpon Eternity,  
Mōre firme and durable then steele or brasse,  
Or the hard diamond, which them both doth passe.

His scepter is the rod of Righteousnesse,  
With which he bruseth all his foes to dust,  
And the great Dragon strongly doth reppresse,  
Vnder the rigour of his iudgement iust;  
His seate is Truth, to which the faithfull trust,  
Frō whence proceed her beames so pure & bright,  
That all about him sheddeth glorious light.

Light

Light farre exceeding that bright blazing sparke,  
 Which darted is from *Titans* flaming head,  
 That with his beames enlumineth the darke  
 The dark & dampish aire, wherby al things are red:  
 Whose nature yet so much is maruelled  
 Of mortall wits, that it doth much amaze  
 The greatest wiſards, which thereon do gaze.

But that immortall light which there doth shine,  
 Is many thousand times more cleare,  
 More excellent, more glorious, more diuine,  
 Through which to God all mortall actions here,  
 And euē the thoughts of men, do plaine appeare:  
 For from th'eternall Truth it doth proceed,  
 Through heauenly vertue, which her beames doe

(breed.

With the great glorie of that wondrous light,  
 His thronē is all encompassed around,  
 And hid in his owne brightness from the sight  
 Of all that looke thereon with eyes vnsound:  
 And vnderneath his feet are to be found,  
 Thunder, and lightning, and tempestuous fyre,  
 The instruments of his auenging yre.

There in his bosome *Sapience* doth sit,  
 The soueraine dearling of the *Deity*,  
 Clad like a Queene in royll robes, most fit  
 For so great powre and peerelesse maiesty:  
 And all with gemmes and iewels gorgeously  
 Adornd, that brighter then the starres appeare,  
 And make her natvie brightness seem more cleare.

And on her head a crowne of purest gold  
 Is set, in signe of highest soueraignty,  
 And in her hand a scepter she doth hold,  
 With which she rules the house of God on hy,  
 And menageth the euer-mouing sky,  
 And in the same these lower creatures all,  
 Subiect to her powre imperiall.

Both heauen and earth obey vnto her will,  
 And all the creatures which they both containe:  
 For of her fulnesse which the world doth fill,  
 They all partake, and do in state remaine,  
 As their great Maker did at first ordaine,  
 Through obseruation of her high behest,  
 By which they first were made, and still increast.

The fairenesse of her face no tongue can tell,  
 For she the daughters of all weimens race,  
 And Angels eke, in beautie doth excell,  
 Sparkled on her from Gods owne glorious face,  
 And more increast by her owne goodly grace,  
 That it doth farre exceed all humanc thought,  
 Ne can on earth compared be to ought.

Ne could that Painter (had he liued yet)  
 Which pictured *Venus* with so curious quill,  
 That all posteritie admyred it,  
 Haue purtrayd this, for all his maistring skill,  
 Ne she her selfe, had she remained still,  
 And were as faire, as fabling wits do sayne,  
 Could once come neare this beauty souerayne.

But

But had those wits the wonders of their dayes,  
 Or that sweete *Telian* Poet which did spend  
 His plenteous vaine in setting forth her prayse,  
 Seene but a glims of this, which I pretend,  
 How wondroufly would he her face commend,  
 Aboue that Idle of his fayning thought,  
 That all the world shold with his rimes be fraught?

How then dare I, the noyice of his Art,  
 Presume to picture so diuine a wight,  
 Or hope to expresse her least perfections part,  
 Whose beautie filleth the heauens with her light,  
 And darkes the earth with shadow of her sight?  
 Ah gentle Muse thou art too weake and faint,  
 The pourtraiet of so heauenly hew to paint.

Let Angels which her goodly face behold  
 And see at will, her soueraigne praises sing,  
 And those most sacred mysteries vnfold,  
 Of that faire loue of mightie heauen's king.  
 Enough is me to admyre so heauenly thing,  
 And being thus with her huge loue possest,  
 In th'only wonder of her selfe to rest.

But who so may, thrise happie man him hold,  
 Of all on earth, whom God so much doth grace,  
 And lets his owne Beloued to behold:  
 For in the view of her celestiall face,  
 All ioy, all blisse, all happinesse haue place,  
 Ne ought on earth can want vnto the wight,  
 Who of her selfe can win the wishfull sight.

For she out of her secret treasury,  
 Plentye of riches forth on him will powre,  
 Euen heauenly riches, which there hiddenly  
 Within the closet of her chaste bowre,  
 Th'eternal portion of her precious dowre,  
 Which mighty God hath giuen to her free,  
 And to all those which thereof worthy bee.

None thereof worthy be, but those whom shee  
 Vouchsafeth to her presence to receaue,  
 And letteth them her louely face to see,  
 Wheroft such wondrous pleasures they conceaue,  
 And sweete contentment, that it doth bereaue  
 Their soule of sense, through infinite delight,  
 And them transport from flesh into the spright.

In which they see such admirable things,  
 As carries them into an extasy,  
 And heare such heauenly notes, and carolings  
 Of Gods high praise, that filleth the brasen sky,  
 And feele such ioy and pleasure inwardly,  
 That maketh them all worldly cares forget,  
 And onely thinke on that before them set.

Ne from thenceforth doth any fleshly sense,  
 Or idle thought of earthly things remaine,  
 But all that earst seemd sweet, seemes now offense,  
 And all that pleased earst, now seemes to paine,  
 Their ioy, their comfort, their desire, their gaine,  
 Is fixed all on that which now they see,  
 All other sights but fayned shadowes bee.

And

And that faire lampe, which vseth to enflame  
 The hearts of men with selfe consuming fyre,  
 Thenceforth seemes fowle, & full of sinfull blame;  
 And all that pompe, to which proud minds aspyre  
 By name of honor, and so much desyre,  
 Seemes to them basenesse, and all riches drosse,  
 And all mirth sadnesse, and all lucre losse.

So full their eyes are of that glorious sight,  
 And senses fraught with such satietie,  
 That in nought else on earth they can delight,  
 But in th'aspe<sup>t</sup>t of that felicitie,  
 Which they haue written in their inward ey;  
 On which they feed, and in their fastened mynd  
 All happie ioy and full contentment fynd.

Ah then my hungry soule, which long hast fed  
 On idle fancies of thy foolish thought,  
 And with false beauties flattning bait misled,  
 Hast after vaine deceiptfull shadowes sought,  
 Which all are fled, and now haue left thee nought,  
 But late repentance through thy follies prief;  
 Ahccasse to gaze no matter of thy grief.

And looke at last vp to that soueraine light,  
 From whose pure beams al perfect beauty springs,  
 That kindleth loue in euery godly spright,  
 Euen the loue of God, which loathing brings  
 Of this vile world, and these gay seeming things;  
 With whose sweete pleasures being so possest,  
 Thy straying thoughts henceforth for euer rest.

## HEAVENLY BEAUTY

And that life is mine, a privilege to every man  
The pleasure of man is nothing to me  
I perceive that for man there is no life  
And all this because of myself

My name is Jesus Christ the Son of man  
Serves to the people, and the world  
And all things are mine

So full of grace are we all in glory  
And Jesus is always with us in his presence  
The only one that can help us  
But in this world we are not  
Upon this earth we are not  
On this earth we are not  
All happiness is in the world

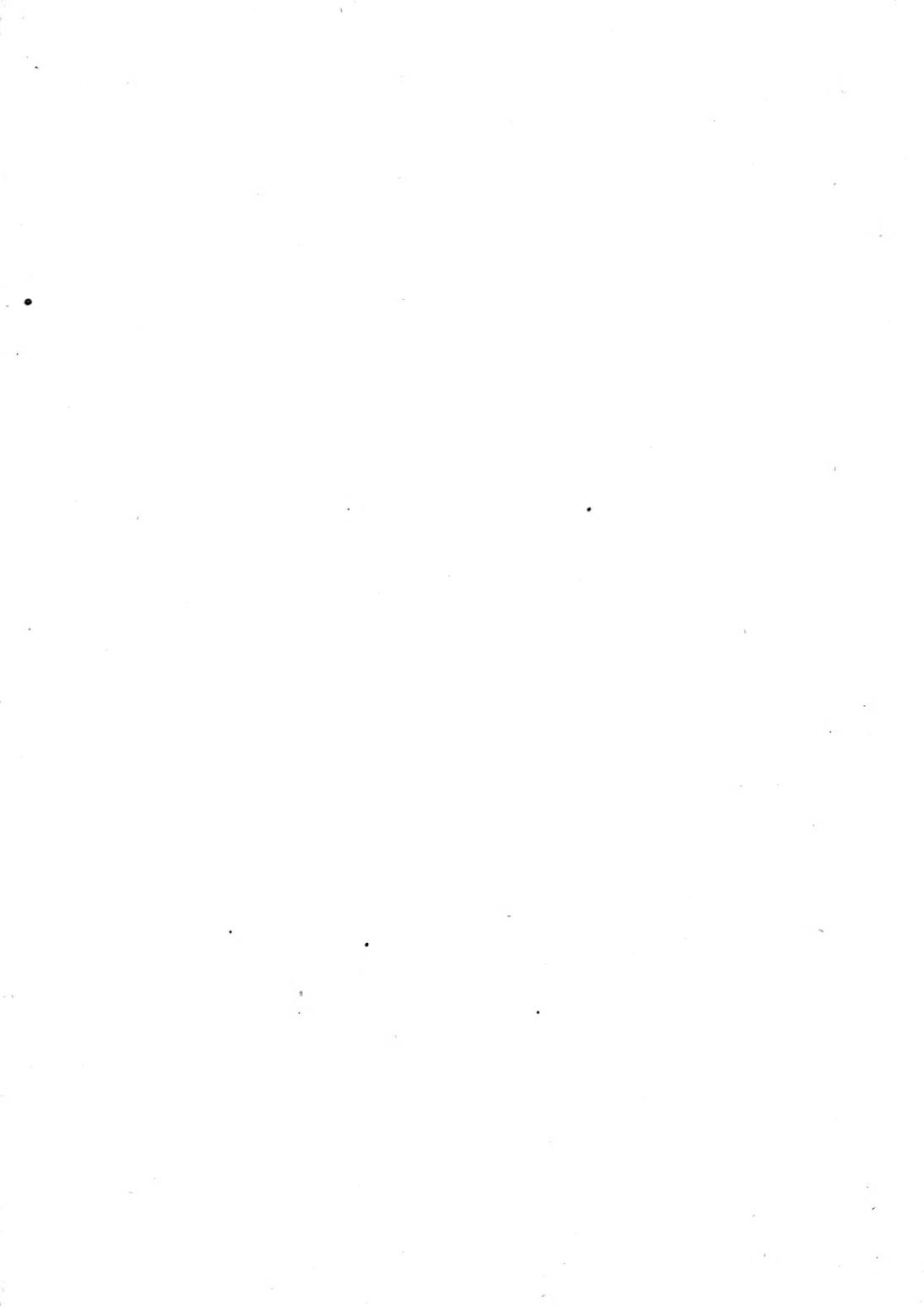
And this is my purpose  
On this earth we are not  
But in this world we are not  
He that is in this world is not of this world  
And this is my purpose  
But in this world we are not  
All happiness is in the world

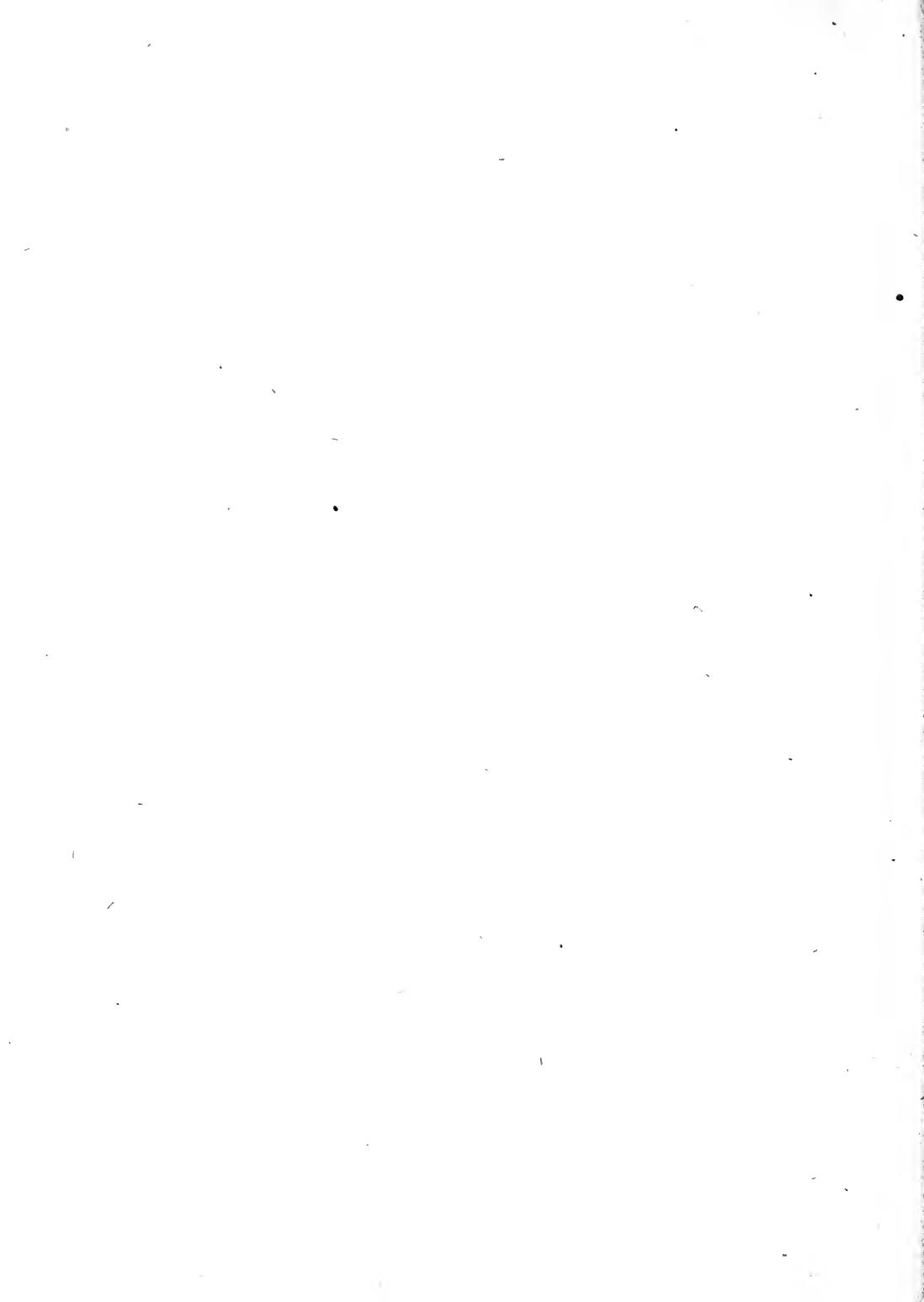
And look to this as your foundation life  
From whom we are born to be born again  
This is the love of God, which is born again

From this love we are born again  
Of this life we are born again  
With this love we are born again  
This is the love of God, which is born again

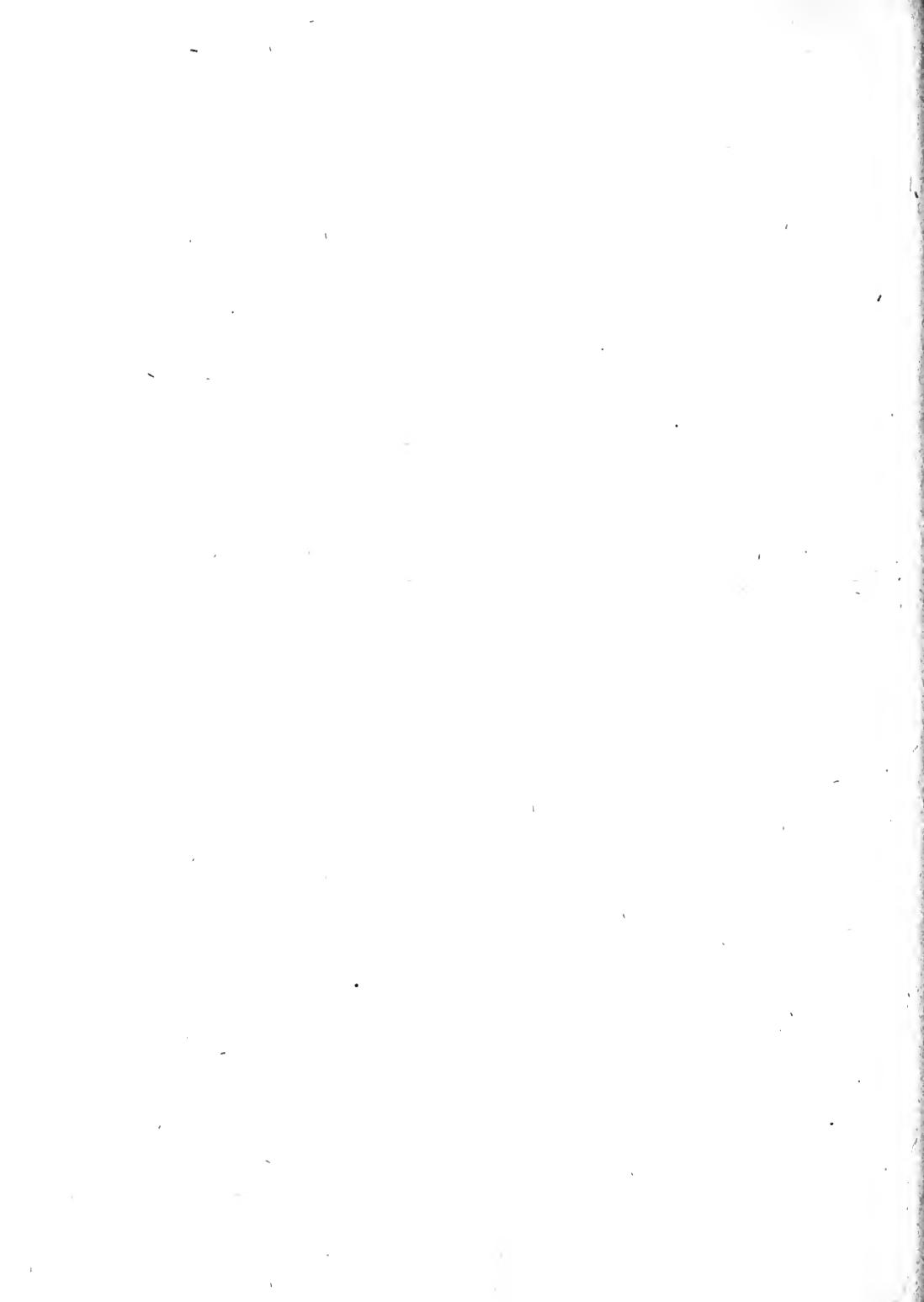












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